



CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

# NEWSLETTER

January 2022

Volume 1



## Tips and Tricks *for* Treasurers *from* Treasurers Now Available

Since the beginning of the Citizens' Election Program, the State Elections Enforcement Commission has conducted post-election surveys of participating candidates, treasurers and deputy treasurers to measure our effectiveness in administering the CEP. After the 2020 election, we again conducted a survey to provide an opportunity for candidates, treasurers and deputy treasurers to give us feedback on the various aspects of the CEP as well as make suggestions for improvement. Every year we review these suggestions as well as the post-election review materials and look for ways to further support treasurers. Be sure to check the online training modules and other training materials for resulting updated revisions!

This time we also added a section to allow experienced, successful treasurers to give tips to their fellow treasurers. We've turned those suggestions and tips into a new online training, "Tips and Tricks for Treasurers from Treasurers," which can be viewed [here](#). Thank you to all of the treasurers and deputy treasurers out there who shared their experiences!

Survey results on participant satisfaction can be found [here](#).





# NEWSLETTER

## New Committees – Please Register Electronically!

2022 candidates and new chairpersons – please register your committees electronically through eCRIS and avoid a trip to Hartford or being left wondering when the mail was delivered!

Registering electronically eliminates the need to come to Hartford to drop off your registration which saves you time and energy, and respects the current health emergencies and its relevant precautions. It also saves on postage costs and worrying about whether your registration will arrive timely with respect to the ten-day window to register, especially with the current unpredictability of the mail. Furthermore, it takes away the need to travel to your treasurer and deputy treasurer to obtain their signatures. Finally, processing paper registrations is time-intensive for Commission staff at an already busy time for us as we gear up for 2022.

Since the COVID pandemic began, we have had more and more committees register through eCRIS. The process is easy to complete and can be done from home. A video on registering a new committee on eCRIS is available [here](#). The candidate, treasurer, and deputy treasurer, if applicable, use their eCRIS accounts and follow simple step-by-step instructions. If you do not already have an eCRIS account, you may set one up by going to the [eCRIS homepage](#) and selecting “Sign Up for eCRIS Account” under “How to get Started.”

The elections officers and the IT helpdesk are also available if you have any issues. Please don't hesitate to use this safe and convenient form of registration!



**March 1, 2022 Town Committee  
Primary Fact Sheet Now Available [Here!](#)**



# NEWSLETTER

## 2022 CEP Trainings

Commission staff will be offering virtual trainings for candidates and treasurers interested in participating in the CEP in 2022. In addition to teaching the basics of the public financing program (CEP 1.0), we will continue to offer a separate CEP training for more seasoned treasurers (CEP 2.0). For dates on which we will be offering subjects back-to-back, you may attend one or both sessions.

Tuesday, January 25 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	CEP 2.0
Tuesday, February 8 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 1:00 pm	CEP 1.0 (2 hrs) at 10:00 am CEP 2.0 (1 hr) at 12:00 pm
Thursday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	CEP 1.0
Tuesday, March 8 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 1:00 pm	CEP 1.0 (2 hrs) at 10:00 am CEP 2.0 (1 hr) at 12:00 pm
Thursday, March 24 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	CEP 1.0

Please register [here](#). Once registered, you will receive an email with a link to join the session, typically on the day before the training will occur.

## CEP Online Training Videos

If you are not able to attend a virtual training, our online training videos may be viewed at any time and can be found [here](#). We are currently working on revising them for 2022 but the first two – Introduction and Tips and Tricks for Treasurers from Treasurers – are available now. We will be updating the remaining modules in the next few months so please check back periodically.



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## Important Information for 2022 Candidates

The 2022 Guide for Statewide Office and General Assembly Candidates Participating in the Citizens' Election Program will be released in February 2022 after the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for December 2021 becomes available as this impacts the qualifying thresholds, maximum qualifying contribution amounts, grant amounts, and organization expenditure limits that will be set out in the Guide. Older CEP guides remain available on our [Publications](#) page.

Guidebooks for Statewide Office and General Assembly Candidates **Not** Participating in the Citizens' Election Program and Judge of Probate Candidates will also be available by February.

At this time, Commission staff would like to address the following two issues with respect to CEP candidates:

### Maximum Qualifying Contribution Amount

Statewide office and General Assembly candidates interested in participating in the CEP are recommended to raise maximum qualifying contributions of \$250 until the CPI adjustments become available in early 2022. The maximum qualifying contribution amount cannot statutorily dip below \$250. When the maximum contribution amount increases, the campaign can always go back to the contributor and raise the difference. For example, if a contributor gave you \$250 and the maximum amount gets adjusted to \$290, you can ask them later if they would like to give an additional \$40 to the campaign.

For candidates who raise contributions of \$270 at this time, which was the CPI-adjusted amount the last time the Program ran in 2020, please be aware that in the unlikely event the maximum amount gets adjusted below \$270, the committee will have to refund the overage before applying for a grant if they want the contribution to potentially qualify.

(Remember: Communicator lobbyists are limited to \$100 and cannot give during legislative session. Cash contributions are also limited to \$100 in the aggregate and exploratory committees of candidates considering the office of state representative are limited to individual contributions of \$250, which is not adjusted for CPI.)

### Redistricting

The 2020 Census has led to some redistricting for both Senate and House districts. Please note that for purposes of counting contributions as in-district for General Assembly candidates participating in the CEP, SEEC will use the districts drawn based on the 2020 Census.





# NEWSLETTER

## SEEC Form CEP 10 – Early Submission Can Lead to Problems Later

To all 2022 Candidates for General Assembly or Statewide Office looking to participate in the Citizens' Election Program: Please hold off on submitting your SEEC FORM CEP 10 (Affidavit of Intent to Abide by Expenditure Limits and Other Program Requirements) until after your nominating convention or official notice that you have achieved ballot access. Candidates who will be in a primary have until 4:00 pm on July 15, 2022 to file their CEP 10 while general election only candidates have until 4:00 pm on September 29, 2022.

Candidates must declare a party status when filing the CEP 10. A candidate who changes his or her party status after filing the CEP 10 because he or she achieves ballot access through a different party or by petitioning onto the general election ballot will no longer be eligible to apply for a Program grant. (For example, if you submit your CEP 10 indicating "Democrat" as your party status but then do not qualify for that primary ballot, you will not be able to participate in the public financing program if you gain

ballot access by being nominated by the Independent, Green, Working Families or another party or if you decide to petition on to the general election ballot.)

If you wait to submit your CEP 10 until after you absolutely know how you are getting on the ballot, you will be able to participate in the Program under whichever party designation has gotten you onto the ballot. Prior to submitting the CEP 10, you should still fundraise consistent with CEP regulations and you can tell your voters, campaign team and the media that you are participating in the Program.

Every election cycle the staff has to explain this rule to candidates who cannot participate in the Program after unexpected results at local conventions because they filed their CEP 10 too early with a party designation that later changes for purposes of ballot access. Please avoid these potential issues. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Revised Ad Book Purchase Forms Now Available For Party Committees and Political Committees

For party committees and political committees that will be selling advertisements in programs for or on signs at fundraising events, please note that we have posted revised ad book purchase forms. They are located on this [page](#) under the respective committee type name (party committees – Form E, traditional political committees – Form G, as well as municipal candidate committees (Form F)).

Prior versions are still acceptable but these changes were made to better assist treasurers in obtaining the proper information from the purchaser.

We have not made changes to the contributor certification forms at this time.



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## Pre-Application Reviews for CEP General Assembly Campaigns

For General Assembly candidates planning to participate in the Citizens' Election Program during the 2022 election season, the Commission is once again offering voluntary opportunities to submit documentation for a pre-application review (PAR) of potential qualifying contributions for those committees that have raised the qualifying contribution threshold plus an adequate buffer. This is a great opportunity for campaigns, as the Commission has seen that this early review program greatly increases the likelihood that campaigns will avoid continuances during the grant application season which begins in late May.

### 2022 PAR Calendar/Schedule

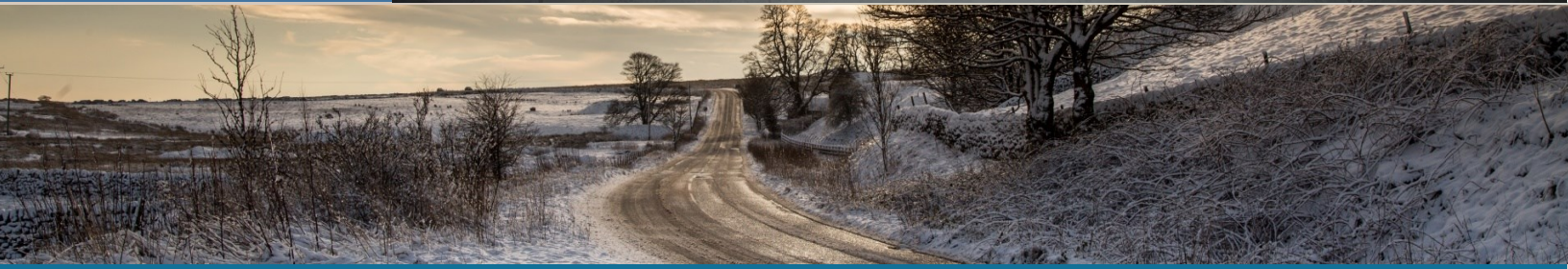
CEP participating treasurers: Within your eCRIS Reporting Homepage for your 2022 candidate committee, there will be additional non-standard reports available for you to tailor your reporting schedule to accommodate a PAR.

Dates to Submit SEEC 30	Period Covered
March 1-10, 2022	1/1/22 – 2/28/22
April 1-11, 2022	1/1/22 – 3/31/22





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## Proposed CEP Child Care Regulation Open For Public Comment

The Commission currently has a proposed regulation open for public comment that concerns child care expenditures under the CEP.

During the 2021 session, the Legislature passed Public Act 21-49 which clarified that expenditures for child care services are permissible for candidates not participating in the Citizens' Election Program and made them permissible for candidates participating in the Program when they are rendered to a candidate for the care of any child under thirteen years of age and for whom the candidate is the parent or legal guardian. The services must be necessary as a direct result of campaign activity that would not exist but for the candidate's campaign and compensation must be reasonable and customary for the services rendered. Candidates who are participating in the Citizens' Election Program are permitted to have the campaign pay for such services up to the qualifying contribution threshold for their office.

The Public Act required the Commission to amend its regulations accordingly. The Commission has posted its proposed regulation and it is open for public comment until January 21, 2022. Please visit the Secretary of the State's eRegulations portal [here](#) to review the regulation and related materials and submit a comment if you are interested.

## January Quarterly Filing Due Monday, January 10, 2022

The filing period for the January quarterly report (January 10 Filing) commenced January 1, 2022 and ends January 10, 2022. All state central committees, town committees, political committees, and open candidate committees\* must file this report regardless of financial activity. The filing must cover the period starting with the first day after the period covered by the last filing through December 31, 2021.

Please note that committees that registered on or after January 1, 2022 are not required to file the January quarterly statement unless they had financial activity that occurred on or before December 31, 2021.

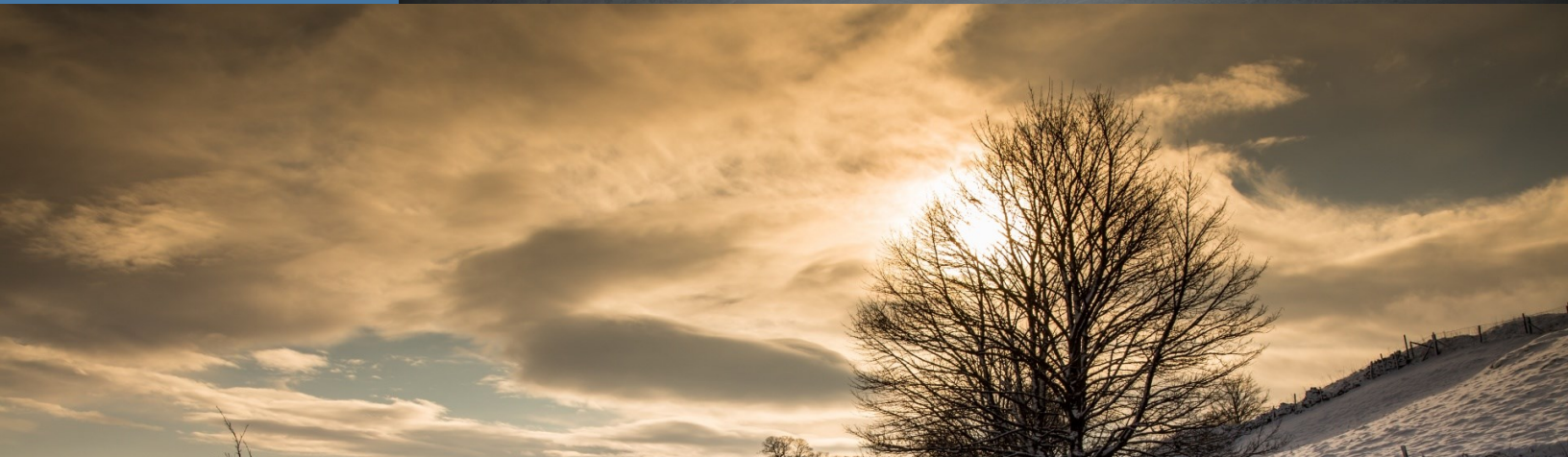
As always, please review the posted [Filing Calendars](#) on our website for more details.

\* Special election candidate committees are not required to file this report.





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## CONTACT US

**SEEC Main Line:**

**860-256-2940**

**Email: [seec@ct.gov](mailto:seec@ct.gov)**

**SEEC Candidate Services Unit:**

**860-256-2985**

**Email: [public.finance@ct.gov](mailto:public.finance@ct.gov)**

**SEEC Compliance Unit:**

**860-256-2925**

**Email: [seec.compliance@ct.gov](mailto:seec.compliance@ct.gov)**

**eCRIS Help Desk:**

**860-256-2930**

**Email: [seec.ecri.info@ct.gov](mailto:seec.ecri.info@ct.gov)**



## Staff Spotlight

In December, Staff Attorney Chelsea Ruzzo left the agency to pursue another employment opportunity. Thank you and good luck to Chelsea!

We celebrate the following staff members who reached milestone years of state service in 2021:

Staff Attorney William Smith – 25 years

IT Analyst Renata Rydzewski – 20 years

Legal Program Director Shannon Kief – 15 years

Staff Attorney Joshua Foley – 15 years